

Chapter 8: Action Plan

8.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an Action Plan for the Mystic River watershed, based on stakeholder discussions about the issues and problems identified in the previous assessment chapters and options for addressing them.

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A draft version of the assessment and action plan was presented to the public at a “Launching the Mystic Action Plan” event in Everett, in the Spring of 2005. Three public discussions were then held on (1) water quality, (2) flooding and low flow issues, and (3) land use, recreation and habitat issues, to gather public comment on the draft. In addition, the Charlestown Waterfront Coalition (CWC) has taken on the task of moving forward on action planning for the lower Mystic basin. CWC and MyRWA have begun organizing a new stakeholder network, modeled in part after the Clean Charles 2005 effort, to carry forward planning and dialogue for the lower portion of watershed. This effort, currently known as the Eastern Mystic Watershed Alliance (EMWA), has drawn interest and support from legislators, mayors, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, businesses, community groups, and other important participants in watershed management, and will be formally launched with a Steering Committee in early 2007. EMWA represents an important step in building capacity for watershed planning and action.

The action plan also draws on previous watershed planning and priority-setting efforts, including:

- the Future Search process conducted in 1999,
- the MA DEP’s 1999 Water Quality Assessment Report,
- the Massachusetts Environmental Trust’s 2001 Boston Bridges Project, which addressed the Boston Harbor Watershed as a whole;
- the work of the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative Basin Team through 2002, and
- the 2003 Environmental Justice Across the Mystic (EJAM) project.

This chapter first describes these previous planning efforts. Next, the chapter presents the Action Plan, listing priority tasks by major issue and identifying responsible parties, timelines and success measures for each task.

8.2 Results of Previous Watershed Planning Efforts

1. Future Search 1999

In October 1999, a diverse group of Mystic River watershed stakeholders convened in a two-day Future Search workshop, to develop a vision and a roadmap for the watershed. More than 60 people from nearly 20 communities participated, including representatives

from grassroots organizations, academia, business, government, and residents. The group identified a wide range of issues and concerns, and developed a shared vision of what the watershed could be. Five goals or themes were selected for further work at a follow-up:

- Watershed Identity/Awareness
- Habitat Restoration (with subgoals of Environmental and Social Justice)
- New Governance and Partnerships
- Public Access
- Water Quality and Quantity Restoration.

The follow-up “Focus Workshop”, held at Tufts University in November 1999, developed specific goals and priority actions for each of these areas. These goals and priorities are summarized in Appendix H.

Many of the priorities discussed at the 1999 Future Search have received attention. For example, the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) was reformed and strengthened through a collaboration of a number of local groups. In 2000, MyRWA and Tufts University formed a partnership, the Mystic Watershed Collaborative, with a goal of making the Mystic River “fishable & swimmable” by the year 2010. A Mystic Watershed educational curriculum was developed, although it is not in active use currently. A “Blueways/Greenways” brochure was developed, which now needs updating. Enabling legislation for stormwater utilities was recently adopted, with the active involvement of watershed legislators. Two projects explored open space resources in the watershed, as discussed in Chapter 5. Many other priority actions are still to be done, however. These unmet objectives helped inform the Action Plan presented in this report.

2. MA DEP 1999 Water Quality Assessment Report

The MA Department of Environmental Protection began organizing its work around watershed prior to the institution of the Watershed Initiative, and initiated the 5-year basin cycle process. As part of the rotating basin management effort, the DEP completed a water quality assessment effort for the Boston Harbor, including the Mystic River Subwatershed. The results of that effort were published in 2002 (MA DEP 2002). The report summarizes the data reviewed by DEP to assess the extent to which different waterbodies support (or do not support) their designated uses. These uses include aquatic life support (affected by biological characteristics, habitat and flow, and chemical properties), primary and secondary contact recreation (based on pathogens), and aesthetics. This report provided the basis for the state’s Integrated Assessment for 2002.

3. MET Boston Bridges Project

This project was a two-year collaborative planning effort to address environmental and water-quality issues in the Boston Harbor Watershed, including the Mystic River Watershed. It brought together public and private sector organizations and stakeholders, and through research, outreach to the philanthropic and watershed communities, development of materials to provide context, and a day-long roundtable event in October 2000, it resulted in a variety of new projects and relationships among participants. Six pilot projects received funding and a variety of other projects and partnerships were

designed. The project was funded by the MET Foundation Inc. and the Barr Foundation. Two projects in the Mystic Watershed received pilot funding, including support for the Chelsea Creek Action Group's Master Planning Land-Use/Visioning Process, and The Watershed Institute's (now the Urban Ecology Institute's) Natural Cities Program (which included Chelsea and East Boston in its scope.) The effort also provided a useful inventory of organizations doing water-quality related work in the areas, and presented useful general guidelines and concepts for watershed planning.

4. MA Watershed Initiative Basin Team

The Massachusetts Watershed Initiative was described in Chapter 1 and Appendix A. The priorities established by the Basin Team are reflected in its Annual Work Plans. The annual plans were prepared in a collaborative process by the Basin Team – initially by the Boston Harbor Watershed Team and later by the more focused Mystic River Watershed Team. Team members and other stakeholders submitted project ideas, and the team established watershed priorities and selected priority projects for the coming fiscal year. These projects were often supported by state funding distributed through the MWI process. Appendix G lists the priority projects relevant to the Mystic River that were selected each year. The projects funded by the Watershed Initiative provided some of the information presented in this report. As with the Future Search priorities, some of the Watershed Initiative objectives have been met but others are still to be achieved, and are reflected in this Action Plan. Where a specific action was included in one of the Basin Team Annual Work Plans in the following Recommended Actions, the date of that work plan is noted.

5. EJAM Project

The Environmental Justice Across the Mystic (EJAM) project was a partnership between the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - Environmental Justice (EOEA), the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyWRA), Tufts University, and the Urban Ecology Institute. It was funded by the EPA New England.

The project focused on:

- *understanding* environmental justice,
- *identifying issues* within and affecting the Mystic River Watershed,
- *planning a course of action* to correct existing environmental justice issues and prevent them from arising in the future.

Part of the project involved public meetings to identify issues and discuss potential solutions, including:

- Three public forums served as opportunities to engage in an information exchange on environmental justice issues in the Mystic River watershed, and to learn lessons from other areas as well. The forums were held in Medford, East Boston and Woburn.

- A EJAM Summit held in November 2003. The Summit reviewed the results of the public forums, added issues identified by participants, and developed recommended actions to address the issues that were identified.

Appendix I presents a list of the issue areas discussed at the Summit, and recommended actions that resulted from the discussion.

8.3 Recommended Priority Actions

This section lists specific recommended tasks for the Action Plan, listed and numbered by issue. In addition to the issues addressed in the previous assessment chapters, priority tasks for Environmental Justice, for Community Capacity Building, and for Funding concerns are recommended. Table 8.1 provides a summary of the proposed actions, identifying responsible parties, priorities, and measures of success.

Water Quantity – Flooding and Low Flow

Develop Integrated Regional Flooding and Water Quality Management Strategies

Apply available modeling tools to assess the combined effects of different stormwater management and flood control strategies on flooding, low flow and water quality. Focus initially on two areas where modeling tools and institutional capacity are in place to assess and implement regional strategies (Alewife Brook and the Aberjona), and then expand to additional areas in the watershed. Ensure that all management strategies are evaluated in a watershed-wide context, to capture downstream and upstream impact of proposed actions.

- 1.1 Alewife: Develop an integrated regional strategy to reduce flooding and improve water quality, including reductions in CSOs due to reduced stormwater runoff. Work with the Tricommunity Flooding Work Group (Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge) to develop and implement the strategy.
- 1.2 Aberjona: Revitalize effort to characterize an integrated watershed-based strategy to reduce flooding and improve water quality (FY04 proposed). Include members of the former Upper Mystic Watershed Board, other municipal representatives (e.g. planners and Conservation Commissions), and community stakeholders.
- 1.3 Lower Mystic and Malden River: Investigate the extent of damage and floodwater exposures in the Malden River and the saltwater portion of the watershed. Interview municipal officials and conduct a survey of local businesses and residents. Build on the results of the MAPC Pre-Hazard Mitigation Planning project.
- 1.4 Develop and assess management options for coastal flooding in Chelsea Creek and the rest of the watershed below Amelia Earhart Dam. Build on the findings of

the MAPC Pre-Hazard Mitigation Study, and incorporate analysis of the potential impacts of climate change on future flooding in the watershed.

Dam Operation and Management

- 1.5 Conduct an integrated study of the Amelia Earhart Dam operation (FY03) and impacts of other dam (Horn Pond, Mystic Lakes, Craddock Locks). Assess the watershed-wide potential of removing constrictions at Craddock Locks and the potential for reducing flooding through coordinated dam operations. Assess combined impacts on flooding, fish passage, water and sediment quality. Use modeling results to develop operational guidelines for the Amelia Earhart Dam and to develop a watershed-wide strategy for dam repair and operation.

Floodplain Management

- 1.6 Complete FEMA's revision of floodplain maps for entire watershed; Conduct outreach on development and other implications.
- 1.7 Complete the MAPC Prehazard Mitigation Planning project for the Lower Watershed Communities and conduct a similar study for the Upper Watershed communities. Review the implications for regional efforts to control flooding, and publicize the results to the watershed communities.
- 1.8 Adopt municipal stormwater management ordinances that maximize the use of Low Impact Development methods for controlling runoff and maximizing recharge.

Low Flow

- 1.9 Install gauges throughout the watershed to assess flow conditions. Identify stressed basins based on MA Water Resources Commission criteria.
- 1.10 Develop and implement land use regulation and public education strategies to encourage increased stormwater recharge and water conservation, based on the results of the flow evaluation.

2. Water Quality

Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

- 2.1 Conduct water quality monitoring to address gaps in current Integrated Waters List, including unassessed waterbodies and expanded evaluation of bacteria and nutrient problems where current evidence indicates potential problems but is insufficient to support a 303(d) listing.
 - Fund continuation and expansion of volunteer monitoring (Mystic Monitoring Network) (FY03) Expand hot spot monitoring, with source identification and follow-up.

- 2.2. Inventory waters affected by non-point source pollution and identify and implement strategies to address the causes.
- Continue implementation of the MyRWA Find It and Fix It project funded by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

Bacteria Pollution Control

- 2.3 Continue water quality monitoring to identify sources of bacteria loadings
- Conduct intensive investigation at high recreational use areas (Sandy Beach, Blessing of the Bay boathouse, Malden River, and others) to characterize bacteria pollution, including use of the USGS “preponderance of the evidence” approach for distinguishing human from non-human sources. Work with municipalities to address illegal connections and wet weather sources identified in these areas.
 - Continue MyRWA hot spot monitoring to support location of leaking pipes throughout the watershed, and report results to municipalities, DEP and EPA.
- 2.4 Track and report to the public on the results of DEP and EPA §308 letters to municipalities.
- 2.5 Continue efforts to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows
- Continue monitoring and evaluation of options under the Alewife/Upper Mystic CSO variance.
 - Compile and publicize information on all CSOs in the watershed:
 - Status and provisions of permit;
 - Adequacy of public notification requirements;
 - Evaluate potential for revisiting current B_{CSO} classifications, based on results of improved stormwater management and SSO reductions.
- 2.6 Continue MWRA/municipal efforts to reduce inflow & infiltration
- Follow-up on MWRA/municipal Inflow & Infiltration Task Force.
 - Track success of municipal efforts to correct I&I, based on results of improved MWRA wastewater metering.

Ammonia Contamination

- 2.7 Investigate major sources of ammonia loadings to the Aberjona River and its tributaries, and develop a strategy to reduce loadings (through the EPA Superfund process and other actions as appropriate).

Stormwater Management

- 2.8 Evaluate progress and effectiveness of Phase I and Phase II stormwater programs, identify barriers to progress and assess potential improvements to be incorporated in the second round of Phase II permits.

- municipal Phase II programs
- MassPort, Mass Highway Department, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

2.9 Investigate the potential for use of stormwater utilities in the watershed.

Nutrient Assessment

- 2.10 Develop nutrient source assessment and control strategy for above Mystic Lakes:
- Complete Tufts University study of nutrient sources
 - Use the nutrient management decision tool developed by Tufts study to develop a regional nutrient management strategy, with the involvement of municipal and community stakeholders.

TMDL Strategy & Implementation

- 2.11 Evaluate needs and set priorities for TMDL development.
- 2.12 Complete pathogen TMDL, including implementation plan

Hazardous Waste Site Status

- 2.13 Remediate known contamination from hazardous waste sites:
- off-site contamination sites identified in the EPA Risk Assessment for Woburn Superfund sites (IndustriPlex and Wells G & H) as requiring action;
 - Island End coal tar site Response Action and remediation evaluation.
- 2.14 Identify high priority sites with potential to contaminate Mystic waterbodies:
- Update information on current status;
 - Evaluate whether adequate consideration was given to surface water quality impacts and potential for human exposure when remedies were selected;
 - For sites found to have inadequate review, conduct targeted water quality sampling for the relevant pollutants, and initiate a public involvement process.
 - Initiate or revitalize the public river process for high-priority sites where remediation has not been completed and where there is limited public review currently.
- 2.15 Provide Technical Assistance Grants to support such public review of high priority sites.

Sediments

- 2.16 Assess impact of contaminated sediments on water quality and safety of boating (including personal watercraft, canoeing/kayaking, and power boats).

- 2.17 Develop overall Sediment Assessment and Remediation/Containment Strategy for the watershed, drawing on the USGS Sediment Study, the sediment analyses performed for the EPA study of off-site contamination from the Industri-Plex and Wells G&H Superfund sites, and the Army Corps of Engineers analysis of Malden River sediments.

Trash Clean-up & Prevention

- 2.18 Conduct cleanups to remove trash from shorelines and from in the water.
- 2.19 Characterize major sources of trash and develop strategy to reduce trash disposal in and adjacent to waters.

Outreach and Education

- 2.20 Improve public awareness of water quality conditions
- Fund continuation of EMPACT monitoring, website and outreach; expand EMPACT outreach with flagging at boat houses and Sandy Beach
 - Review and coordinate criteria for public recreation advisories for high-bacteria periods (EMPACT, DCR beach monitoring, CSO advisories).
 - Expand CSO discharge advisories: local papers, CATV, boat houses, and residences in high risk areas (during flooding). Expand to include CSOs in the Lower Watershed.
- 2.21 Identify potential public health risks based on results of MyRWA River Use survey and develop public education strategy to address.

Land Use and Open Space

Smart Growth and Land Use

- 3.1 Investigate opportunities to apply the Blue Cities criteria and templates being developed by the Charles River Watershed Association for redevelopment that improves watershed functioning – identify candidate for pilot project in the Mystic River Watershed and develop a plan for the redevelopment applying these templates.
- 3.2 Develop and implement water quality, flooding and public waterfront access and water-based transit elements for a transit-oriented, mixed use development at Assembly Square.
- 3.3 Develop consensus Smart Growth principles for projects in urban areas that consider the need to reclaim open space, repair inadequate sewer infrastructure, control flooding, and address traffic and other community concerns. Consider the need for higher standards in areas that currently affected by CSOs, flooding, SSOs, and inflow & infiltration, and that are otherwise impaired. Advocate for

- use of these principles in state Smart Growth incentives and local ordinances, as appropriate.
- 3.4 Support improvement of relevant municipal ordinances and zoning to promote smart growth:
- Catalog relevant current municipal ordinances in the watershed;
 - Compile relevant model ordinances.

Open Space

- 3.5 Develop a “Meta-Plan” for parks and pedestrian/bike paths for the Lower Watershed that identifies all on-going waterfront redevelopment and planning, and identifies areas where coordination among plans would enhance the value of individual components.
- 3.6 Develop and fund a DCR Master Plan for the Mystic River Reservation.
- 3.7 Implement critical next steps from previous planning efforts:
- Chelsea Creek Master Plan;
 - Blair Pond Master Plan;
 - Alewife Master Plan;
 - Everett Waterfront Plan;
 - Mill Creek Restoration 2000.
- 3.8 Publicize and periodically update the results of the UEI Natural Cities and MyRWA Open Space Report priorities for open space protection, and track the status of priority sites.
- 3.9 Investigate options for improving public access in Designated Port Areas, consistent with regulations protecting port uses and with security concerns.

4. Recreation

Promote Safe Recreation

- 4.1 Expand the MyRWA River Use Survey of recreational uses to additional portions of watershed, to identify locations where swimming and fishing might present public health risks.
- 4.2 Investigate and promote safe swimming options for youth in the lower watershed.
- 4.3 Conduct fish tissue sampling for key fishing locations – in particular, lakes and ponds and the saltwater portion of the Mystic River, and issue location-specific advisories as needed.
- 4.4 Post notices about the statewide mercury advisories at popular fishing spots.

Improve Linkages and Access

- 4.5 Continue efforts to complete key links in the pedestrian paths and bikeways throughout the watershed, in concert with regional efforts to enhance the network of paths. High priorities for action include the Bike to the Sea path, the Somerville Community Path, pedestrian and bike access across Amelia Earhart Dam and through the MBTA property near Sullivan Square, the Chelsea Creek Riverway, the East Boston Greenway, the Eastern Ave/B&M Path in Chelsea, links along Malden River (including the former Tele-Com City Paths), extension of the paths along the Mystic River (as addressed by the upcoming DCR Mystic Master Plan), extending the Alewife Brook path (as described in the DCR Master Plan for the Alewife Reservation), the Tri-Community Bikeway linking Stoneham, Winchester and Woburn, the Charles River/Minuteman Connector, River and connecting to the Boston Harbor Walk through Charlestown.
- 4.6 Enhance Public Participation policies at boat clubs located on DCR lands, with an emphasis of opportunities for the public to use the waterfront.
- 4.7 Identify locations for improved public canoe and kayak access.
- 4.8 Publicize the recreational assets of the watershed with a revised Blueways and Greenways map, including the new Village Landing, Gateway Plaza and Schraffts parks.

Parkland Improvement and Upkeep

- 4.9 Improve upkeep and amenities in the DCR urban parks (repairing benches, providing water fountains, etc.).

5. Habitat

Restoration

- 5.1 Implement the habitat restoration strategy proposed by the ACOE Malden River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

Invasives Control

- 5.2 Conduct a comprehensive survey of invasives, and establish watershed priorities for removing and replacing with native species.

Fish Passage

- 5.3 Investigate causes of reduced alewife/herring runs throughout the watershed, and develop an integrated plan for addressing the problems -- consider dam operation, installing fish ladders at the reconstructed Mystic Lakes dam, impacts of sedimentation and low flow, and water quality impacts.

- Review the results of Mass. Department of Marine Fisheries Fishway Survey, and identify priorities for improving anadromous fish passage.
- Evaluate current fish passage through Amelia Earhart Dam and identify options for improving.
- Include fish ladder in the DCR reconstruction of the Mystic Lakes dam.

Environmental Justice

- 6.1 Improve involvement of EJ communities in watershed planning, through targeted outreach, translation of watershed information, and enhanced use of MEPA procedures to support EJ community input on key projects. Fund Technical Assistance support for EJ community groups in connection with watershed projects.
- 6.2 Conduct outreach and education for youth on safe recreation practices in EJ communities.
- 6.3 In all watershed activities, prioritize those projects that correct or prevent inequities in the distribution of environmental impacts and assets.
- 6.4 Promote legislation to make the state's EJ guidelines mandatory, and extend its application to additional state programs (e.g., transportation).

Community Capacity and Watershed Awareness

- 7.1 Establish a multi-stakeholder effort to promote communication and identify shared concerns on the Lower Mystic. Model after the Clean Charles 2005 Initiative, and include advocacy group, municipal, legislative, business, state and federal agency representatives.
- 7.1 Support development of new community groups/stream teams (general: FY03).
 - Everett (Friends of Everett Waterfront)
 - Malden River
 - Other
- 7.2 Disseminate results of past stream team shoreline surveys and assess progress on recommended actions to improve impaired waterways (FY03).
- 7.3 Develop and disseminate "watershed awareness" publicity:
 - Interpretive signs throughout the watershed;
 - Mystic-based educational programs for school children;
 - Revise the MyRWA Greenways/Blueways brochure.

- 7.4 Improve communication/information-sharing among watershed stakeholders:
- Continue regular stakeholder meetings, similar to the former Basin Team;
 - Hold semi-annual or annual informal networking and information-sharing meetings (upper, middle and lower watershed);
 - Continue an annual or biennial research conference summarizing results of research on watershed issues;
 - Maintain and distribute a comprehensive watershed calendar of events.

Funding

- 8.1 Develop and maintain list of potential projects for Supplemental Environmental Project funding.
- 8.2 Develop, maintain and disseminate to local groups, municipalities and other watershed stakeholders a coordinated list of potential funding sources (federal and state grants and contracts, foundations and corporate funding)
- 8.2 Conduct EPA Environmental Finance Network training for local groups and municipalities.

Table 8-1: Summary of Action Plan			
Action	Priority	Responsible Parties	Measures of Success
Water Quantity – Flooding & Low Flow Integrated flooding/water quality strategy 1.1 Integrated Alewife strategy 1.2 Integrated Aberjona strategy 1.3 Lower Mystic & Malden investigation 1.4 Coastal flooding options	H M M M	Tricommunity workgroup, Tufts Municipalities, MAPC Municipalities, MAPC Municipalities, MAPC, Tufts	Reduced flood damage Reduced exposure to flood contaminated waters Increased use of LID and watershed-level approaches to flood control Consideration of climate change & flooding impacts in infrastructure design
Dam operation & management 1.5 Integrated strategy for dam management	H	DCR, municipalities	Improved flood management & fish passage
Floodplain management 1.6 FEMA map revision 1.7 MAPC Prehazard Mitigation study 1.8 Improved municipal ordinances	H H /M H	FEMA MAPC & municipalities Municipalities	Reduced flood damage Improved prehazard mitigation planning Improved municipal implementation of integrated flooding/water quality strategies
Low flow 1.9 Evaluate flow & identify stressed basins 1.10 Strategies to improve recharge & water conservation	H M	USGS, DEP DEP, MyRWA, municipalities	Increased groundwater flow

Table 8-1: Summary of Action Plan

Action	Priority	Responsible Parties	Measures of Success
Water Quality			
Water quality monitoring & assessment			
2.1 Monitoring & assessment for 303(d) list	H	DEP, MyRWA	Completed assessment of Mystic waterbodies NPS assessment & strategies for high-priority locations
2.2 Inventory of waters affected by NPS & strategies to address	H	MyRWA, municipalities	
Bacteria pollution control			
2.3 Tracking of bacteria sources	H	DEP, MyRWA, Tufts, USGS, MWRA	Reduced bacteria levels – wet & dry weather conditions Reduced I&I
2.4 Tracking & follow-up on §308 investigations	H	DEP, EPA, MyRWA	
2.5 Reduced CSO discharges	H	DEP, MWRA, municipalities	
2.6 I&I reduction	H	MWRA, municipalities	
Ammonia control			
2.7 Identify sources in Aberjona subbasin & address sources	H	Tufts, EPA	Reduced ammonia levels in Aberjona subbasin & downstream
Stormwater management			
2.8 Assess SW Program performance	H	EPA, DEP, MyRWA	Improved design & implementation of stormwater programs Strategy for use of SW utilities
2.9 Potential for SW utilities	M	MyRWA, academic research	
Nutrient assessment			
2.10 Nutrient source & control strategy - Aberjona	H	Tufts, municipalities	Reductions in nutrient levels
TMDL strategy & implementation			
2.11 Develop TMDL strategy for Mystic	H	DEP, MyRWA	Comprehensive TMDL development & implementation strategy for the Mystic
2.12 Complete Mystic pathogen TMDL	H	DEP	
Hazardous waste site status			
2.13 Remediate off-site contamination from Woburn Superfund sites & Island End coal tar site	H	PRPs, EPA, DEP	Remediation of known toxics contamination Assessment & increased public involvement for other potential source of toxics
2.14 Identify & assess priority haz. waste sites contributing to water quality problems	H/M	EPA, DEP, MyRWA, community groups, academic research	
2.15 Technical Assistance funding for public review	H/M	EPA, DEP	

Table 8-1: Summary of Action Plan			
Action	Priority	Responsible Parties	Measures of Success
Sediments			
2.16 Evaluate impacts of contaminated sediments	H	USGS, MyRWA, academic research	Strategy for addressing high-impact sediment contamination
2.17 Develop sediment remediation strategy for high-impact areas	M	Army Corps, USGS, DEP	
Trash clean-up & prevention			
2.18 Cleanups	H	MyRWA, community groups	Reduced trash in waterbodies
2.19 Source identification & prevention strategy	M		
Outreach & education			
2.20 Improved public awareness of water quality conditions	H/M	Tufts, MyRWA, CSO managers, municipal public health officials	Improved public awareness of potential public health risks
2.21 Strategy to address potential public health risks	M		
Land Use and Open Space			
Smart growth & land use			
3.1 Blue Cities pilot study	M	MyRWA, academic research, EOE Somerville, community groups, MyRWA MyRWA, academic research, EOE EOEA, academic research, 319 program, MyRWA	Watershed-friendly design for high priority redevelopments Increased municipal and regional capacity for improved land use management
3.2 Assembly Square waterfront input	H		
3.3 Smart Growth principals for urban areas	M		
3.4 Improved municipal ordinances & zoning	H		
Open Space			
3.5 Lower Mystic “meta-plan”	H	MAPC, MyRWA, community groups, DCR DCR	Increased open space & improved public access Integration of resources at watershed level
3.6 DCR Mystic Master Plan	H		
3.7 Implementation of priority projects from various planning efforts	H/M	DCR, municipalities, community groups, developers MyRWA, UEI Community groups, CZM, DEP, port businesses, MAPC, DCR	
3.8 Tracking & publicizing priority open space sites	M		
3.9 DPW public access options	H		

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Action	Priority	Responsible Parties	Measures of Success
Recreation			
Promote safe recreation			
4.1 Expanded river use survey	M	MyRWA	Reduced recreational exposure to contamination
4.2 Safe swimming options	H	Community groups, municipalities, DCR	
4.3 Fish consumption assessment	H	DEP	
4.4 Fish consumption advisory postings	H	DEP, DCR, municipalities	
Improved linkages & access			
4.5 Complete links in regional pedestrian/bike paths	H/M	DCR, municipalities, community groups, developers	Increased public recreational access & use
4.6 Enhanced public access at boat clubs on DCR land	H	DCR, lessees	
4.7 Locations for improved public boat access	M	DCR, community groups, MyRWA	
4.8 Publicity	M	MyRWA, community groups	
Parkland improvement & upkeep			
4.9 Improve upkeep & amenities in DCR Mystic urban parks	H	DCR	Higher-quality & safer parklands
Habitat Restoration			
5.1 Malden River habitat restoration	H	Army Corps of Engineers; Rivers Edge development	Restored habitat functioning
Invasives control			
5.2 Inventory & priorities for invasives control	M	Community groups, MyRWA	Strategy for watershed-level invasives control
Fish passage			
5.3 Assessment & actions to improve anadromous fish levels	H/M	DCR (Mystic Lakes & AED dam) DFW, community groups	Increased alewife/herring run
Environmental Justice			
6.1 Improved EJ participation in watershed planning	H	EOEA/MEPA, MyRWA, community groups	Reduced disparities in risks and access to watershed amenities for EJ communities
6.2 Safe recreation outreach	M	MyRWA, community groups,	

Table 8-1: Summary of Action Plan			
Action	Priority	Responsible Parties	Measures of Success
6.3 Priorities projects that address EJ concerns	H	DCR	
6.4 Promote EJ legislation	H	All stakeholders Community groups, MyRWA	
Community Capacity & Watershed Awareness			
7.1 Multi-stakeholder network for lower watershed	H	Lower watershed municipalities, legislators, community groups, businesses, state & federal agencies	Increased public commitment to watershed protection Increased community capacity to advocate for watershed protection
7.2 Develop new community groups	M	MA Riverways, MyRWA	
7.3 Publicize & track progress on shoreline surveys	M	MA Riverways, MyRWA	
7.4 Watershed awareness publicity	H	MyRWA, community groups	
7.5 Improved watershed stakeholder communication	H	MA Riverways, MyRWA, EOEA	
Funding			
8.1 SEP project inventory	H	All stakeholders	Increased funding for watershed protection priorities
8.2 Catalog of funding resources	H	EOEA, MyRWA	
8.4 Environmental Finance Network support	M	EPA	